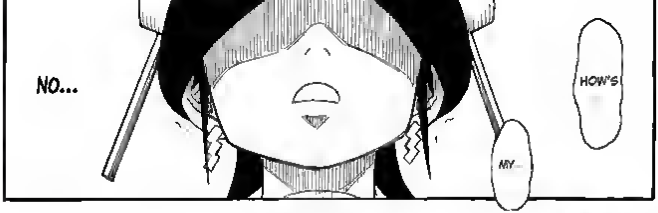
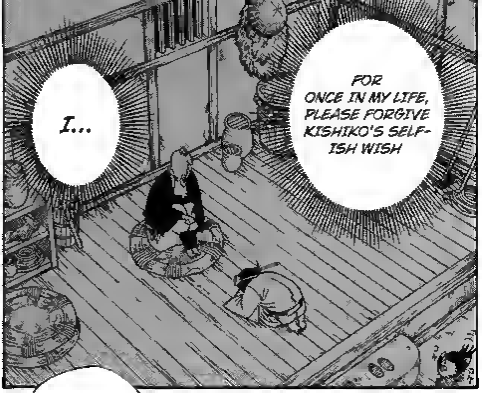

NO...
HOW'S
MY...

I MUSTN'T ASK ABOUT HIM!!
ズキッ...

SO THAT MASSACRE IS JUST BULLSHIT, AND THAT SHITMOUTH JUST WANTED TO PICK A FIGHT WITH US.
WHAT'S GOING ON?

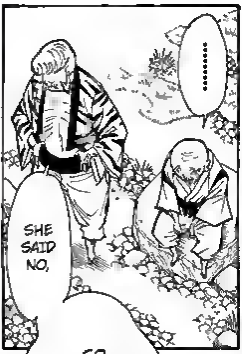
DON'T MOVE!!
YOU PEOPLE SMEARED MY MOTHER'S GOOD NAME AND BRANDED HER A MURDERER
GAH...
!?
MY BROTHER WILL NEVER DRIBBLE FECES FROM HIS MOUTH!!
HE'S A CLEAN PERSON!!
CAREFUL!

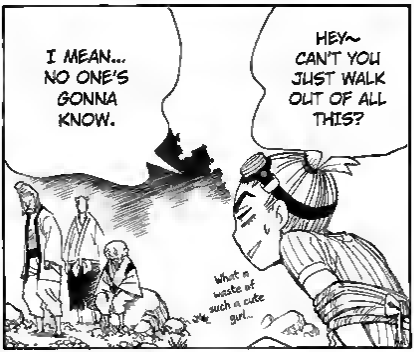
...SO NOW WHAT, HUH?
YA.
WE HAD NO CHOICE... WE WERE LUCKY I RECKON.
BUT IF THE EMPEROR CATCHES ON...


I...
FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE, PLEASE FORGIVE KISHIKO'S SELF-ISH WISH

SAY SUMTHIN', CHIEF!!
Ain't we her fathers?
.....

BUT I...


.....
SHE SAID NO,


I MEAN... NO ONE'S GONNA KNOW.
HEY~ CAN'T YOU JUST WALK OUT OF ALL THIS?
What a waste of such a cute girl..

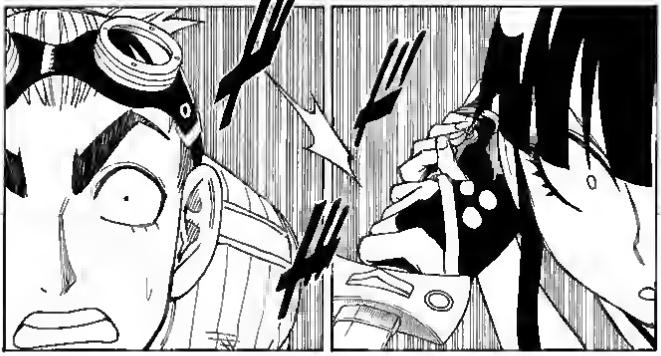
SO WHEN THE FULL MOON COMES...

GYA AAA AH.
ANOTHER VICTIM AT THE HANDS OF MY FATHER...
.....
Y.. YES YOUR GRACE!!
REPEAT.
THE CHIEF SAID.. HE ASKED FOR
A RELEASE OF THE SACRIFICIAL DUTY BECAUSE SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE EMPEROR.

YOU SHAN'T!! YOU CAN'T REPLACE ME!!
This is terrible!!
THAT ISN'T THE POINT!!
what about the chicken...
IS A MONGREL LIKE HER NOT GOOD ENOUGH?!
HOWEVER, I MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY AS THIS IS A SACRED REALM.
MY APOLOGIES, TRAVELER.
I MADE THIS CHOICE MYSELF!
Hono-chan is not an offering, she's a pet!

I KNOW THEY STARTED IT, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
KII-SAMA!!
EH? EH?
JUST NOW...
YOU DEFLECT-ED HIM.
ARE YOU?
WHO
I AM KISHIKO
OF KASAHARI VILLAGE, NO?
I'M...
HUH?!

HAVE YOU MET
MY BROTHER...?



HIS SISTER?!
!?
!?
BUT KIRUHITO SAID EMPRESS FUJIYA MURDERED HIS SISTER...

WILL ONLY SPLIT MY HEART...
HEY! WHAT ABOUT ME!!?
I WAS POI-SONED TOO!
HELLO ...
HELLO BROTHER!
LET'S PLAY GO TOGETHER, KIRU BIG BROTHER!!
キョロ
キョロ
WHERE DID HE GO?
UUHN
MY MY, PLEASE FORGIVE ME PRINCESS TOYOMIKO.
OH... NOT AT ALL
It was my fault.

THESE PEOPLE DIDN'T CAPTURE ME BECAUSE OF MY IDENTITY...
.....

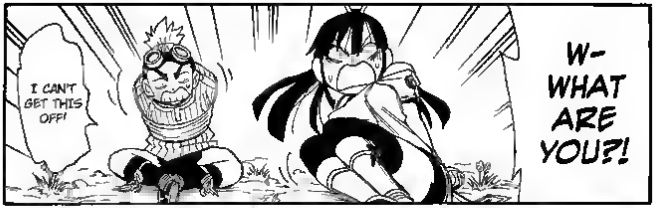
I... IT WILL BE ALRIGHT. I BELIEVE THE CAPITAL PAYS A DOLE TO VILLAGES THAT SEND AN OFFERING!
BUT WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU .

HOW COULD WE... UUU...
SINCE YOU WERE A NIPPER, WE'VE EATEN TOGETHER, HARVESTED TOGETHER...
OH SEI-BEIE..
BUT...
KISHIKO IS ONE OF OUR OWN!!
THIS IS RUBBISH KII, NO,

BACK OFF!!
WE MUSTN'T LET IT LINGER. ALLOW ME TO TAKE A LOO—
KII-SAMA, NOW'S THE CHANCE TO GET AWAY FROM HER!!
Come here!
BAHAHA! THE POISON IS STILL KICKN'
WE HAD TO
JU... JUST A TAD.
POISON .. HOW?!
A FRIEND OF THE ENEMY IS
AN ENEMY!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

POW
HAA AH.
HUH.

HM...
HUH.


I CAN'T GET THIS OFF!
W-WHAT ARE YOU?!

NO WORRIES, IT'S RIGHT
WE'VE BEEN CAUGHT, BY WHO!? ARE THEY A PART OF THE LIME FAMILY? OR EVEN THE MATSU...?

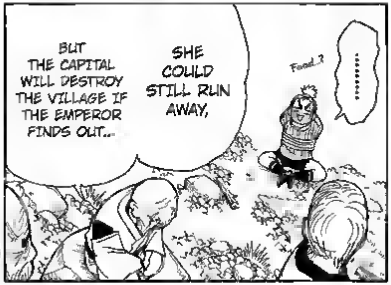
チリ チリ
UFF...
I FEEL NUMB... POISON?!

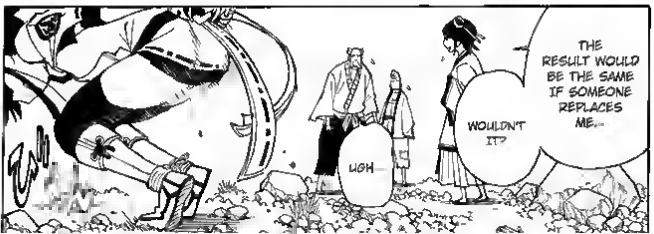
HOW CAN WE PUT THIS... DO HEAVEN A FAVOR... AND OF COURSE, YOUR AFTERLIFE.
WE'RE SORRY, LASSIE.

KII WAS GIVEN TO US BY THE GOD OF THE SEA.
ST OP!!
SHE WAS TINY, SO CUTE.
SHE WASN'T EVEN THAT SMALL,
YOU BLOODY IDIOT
SHE PASSED OUT AT THE BEACH WHEN CHO FOUND HER
I DID,
I PICKED HER UP.
むきゃきゃ
KII POSSESSES A TYPE OF MAGIC WHICH CAN HEAL ANYTHING AND REPEL EVEN THE WORST OF CREATURES.
IT WORKS WONDERS.
ばしゃ
ばしゃ

SHE WILL BE EATEN ALIVE.
BY THE SILVER SHISHI-GAMI.

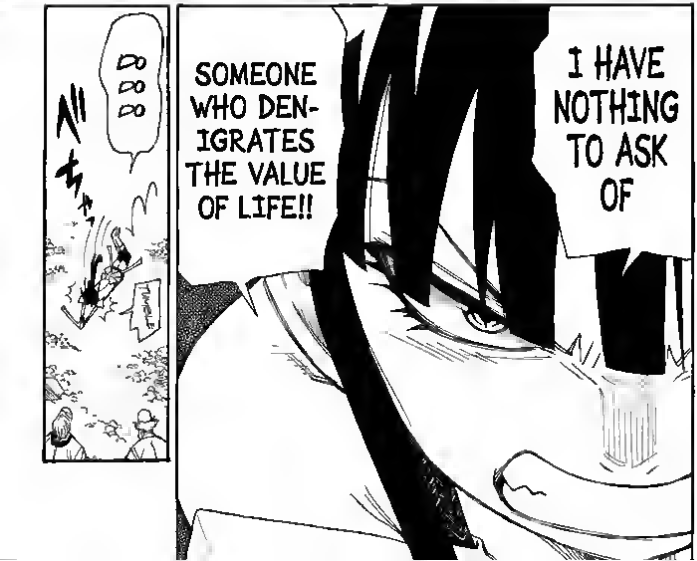
someone will rat us out
SINCE SHISHIGAMI IS THE GOD WHO PROTECTS THE ROYAL FAMILY...

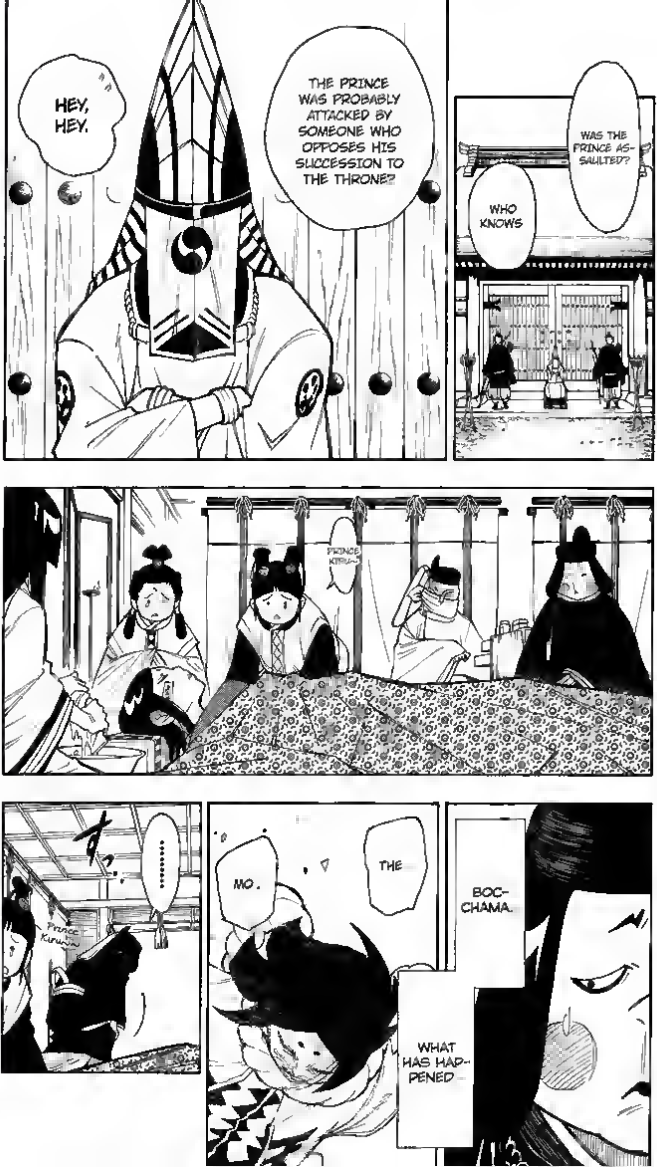

BUT THE CAPITAL WILL DESTROY THE VILLAGE IF THE EMPEROR FINDS OUT...
SHE COULD STILL RUN AWAY,
Food.?
.....

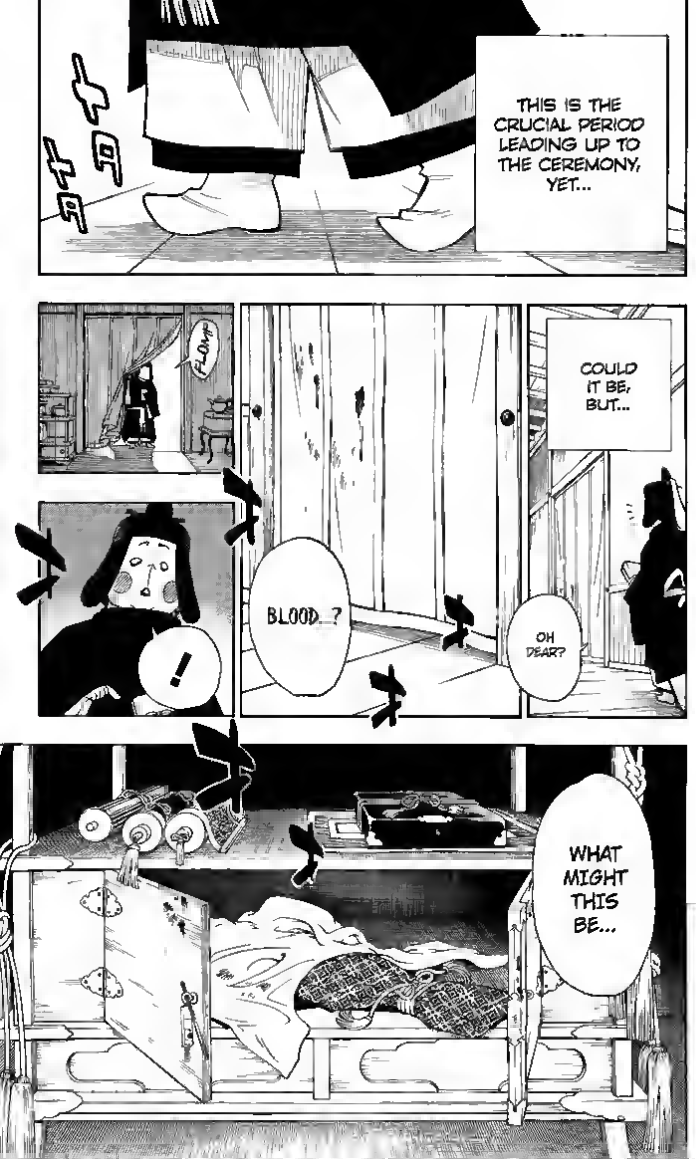

THE RESULT WOULD BE THE SAME IF SOMEONE REPLACES ME...
WOULDN'T IT?
UGH...

I HAVE TO PUT ASIDE MY PUBLIC DUTIES.
I'M ON MY WAY TO BEAT UP THESE CAPITAL PIGS!!

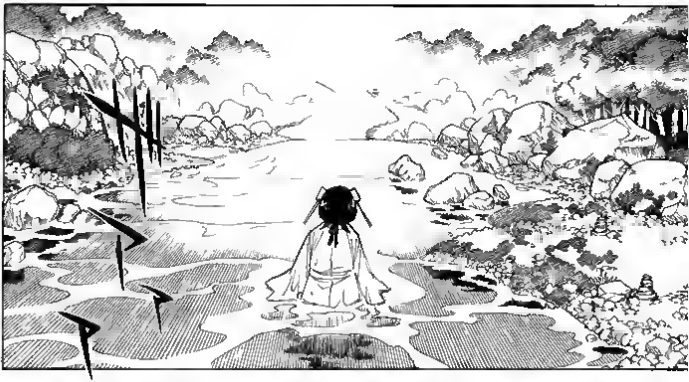
WAIT WHAT! WE SHOULD BE ALLYING WITH THEM!
WAA AT?!!


I HAVE NOTHING TO ASK OF
SOMEONE WHO DEN-IGRATES THE VALUE OF LIFE!!
ああ
Shinra


HEY, HEY.
THE PRINCE WAS PROBABLY ATTACKED BY SOMEONE WHO OPPOSES HIS SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE?
WAS THE PRINCE ASSAULTED?
WHO KNOWS
PRINCE KIRUKU
Prince Kiruku
.....
MO.
THE
BOC-CHAMA.
WHAT HAS HAPPENED


THIS IS THE CRUCIAL PERIOD LEADING UP TO THE CEREMONY, YET...
FLOMP
COULD IT BE, BUT...
BLOOD...?
OH DEAR?
!
WHAT MIGHT THIS BE...

GAHWAAHAH
I SWAL-LOWED!!
Dammit



LET'S HURRY BACK TO THE ALTAR...

I DE-SPISE ..
THE RIVER.

AH!!
EH?! MY BUCKET!! WHERE?!
PLOP

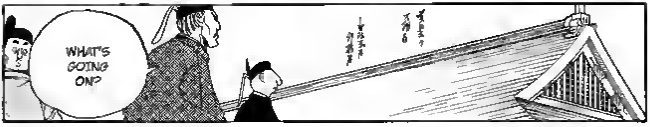
スリーン!!
SWITCH PLACES WITH OUR HUMAN OFFERING.

!?
!?

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME, GODS HAVE LIVED ON THIS ISLAND.
EVERY 10 YEARS, THE CAPITAL TAKES A VIRGIN FROM NEARBY REGIONS AND LEAVES HER TO THE GODS, IN EXCHANGE WE RECEIVE A BIG HARVEST AND GOOD HEALTH.

KIII?! WHAT THE BLOODY 'ELL ARE YOU DOIN' HERE?!
FLOPPING ALL OVER THE RIVER CATHIN' SUMTHIN'
KY AA— CHO O!!
OH MY! CHIEF? IS EVERYONE HERE?!
WHAT BROUGHT YOU BACK...
UGH.
UGH.
DON'T LOOK! I'M ONLY WEARING MY UNDER-GARMENTS!!
HA.

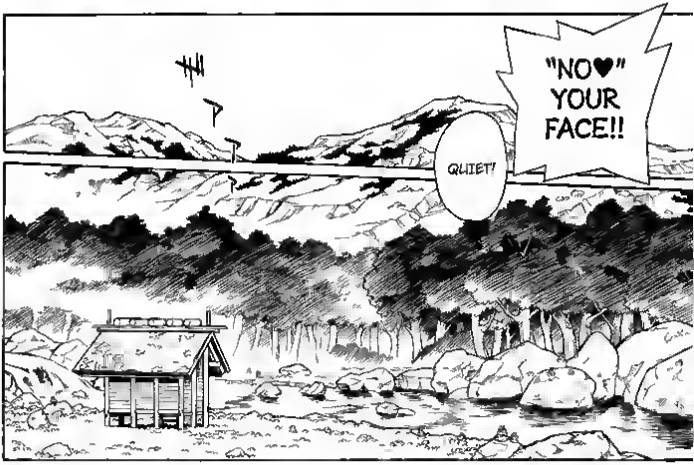
CHAPTER. 12

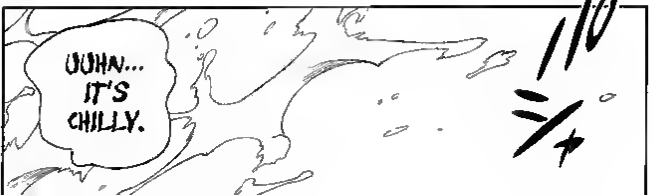

WHAT'S GOING ON?

I BELIEVE IT IS THE PRAYER CEREMONY FOR THE YOUNG PRINCE'S RECOVERY
RUMORS SAY HE RETURNED LAST NIGHT HEAVILY WOUNDED
I EVEN HEARD THAT THE IMPERIAL BROTHERS ARE STANDING GUARD ALL OVER THE PALACE.

WAIT UP
SO NOW THEY'RE COLLECTING OFFERINGS TO SACRIFICE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE EMPEROR'S ABDICATION
haah

BUT YOU'VE ARRIVED AT THE BEST TIME, NO♥
SO NOW IT'S KII'S TURN...


"NO♥" YOUR FACE!!
QUIET!


UUHN... IT'S CHILLY.
110

YET...
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL...
.....
FUJIWARA TOLD ME THAT
OUR COUNTRY IS THE FILTHY ONE.
WHEN I GROW UP, I WILL CLEAN THIS PLACE UP FOR SURE.
TOYO,
YOU HAVE TO HELP ME TOO!

WHAT ARE YOU!?
THIS IS NO MISTAKE!! FATHER!! TOYO IS STILL ALIVE!!
WE MUST RETRIEVE HER...
YOU'RE DIS-MISSED.
IF YOU INTEND TO SPEAK OF SUCH BANALITY, LEAVE AT ONCE.
AHAHA, WHAT'RE YOU...
IT'S TOYO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

ONLY MY BROTHER WAS NICE TO ME
じゃじゃーん
I MADE THIS NECK-LACE FOR YOU!
WOW~ THANK YOU! IS THIS A FROG?
where's his body?
IT'S A HARE!! A HARE AND THE MOON!!
BECOME ADULTS...
It is too early for you though.
WHEN PRINCESSES BECOME ADULTS, THEY WEAR ONE,
YOU LIKE THE MOON, DON'T YOU?
to I carved it
SHH~ THEY WILL SCOLD YOU.
DON'T LOOK AT IT OR EVEN TALK ABOUT IT. IT'S FILTHY!
keep it a secret

CHAPTER 12

UNBROKEN TIES

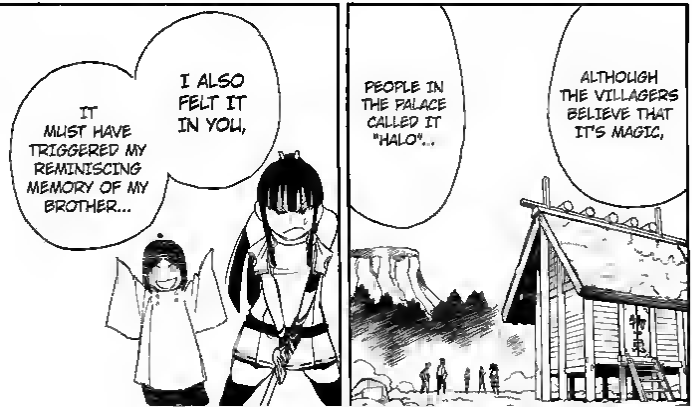
INCREDIBLE.
HERE ARE YOUR BELONGINGS.
FOR A LADY TO CARRY A SWORD, HOW COURAGEOUS OF YOU.
BUT YOU CARRY A NOSTALGIC FRAGRANCE...
PARDON ME..
This person
WE NEED TO GET OUTTA HERE...

T/N: THE MOON AND THE SOFT SHELL TURTLE IS A JAPANESE EXPRESSION REFERRING TO DIFFERENCES. COINCIDENTALLY SOFT SHELL TURTLE HAS THE SAME PRONUNCIATION AS PLUNGE!

AN OFFERING ROTS ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.
LEAVE IT.
PLEASE STOP, YOUR GRACE!! YOU CANNOT...
THEN...
TELL ME?
HEY!! WHAT'S ENGRAVED ON THE NECK-LACE?!
ERR...
EH?!
IT LOOKED LIKE A FROG...
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING...?
FATHER...
TOYO...
OH MY BELOVED SON, YOU HAVE RECOVERED. TELL ME...

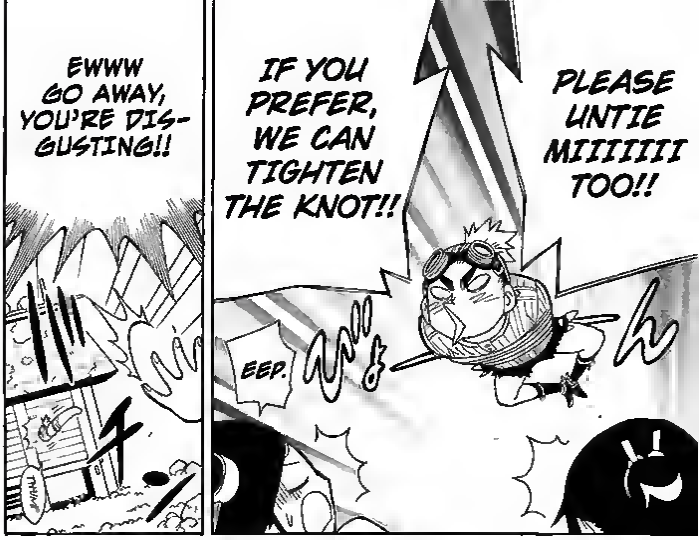
I...
I WON'T THANK AN ENEMY!
DID SHE CURE IT?!
はっ

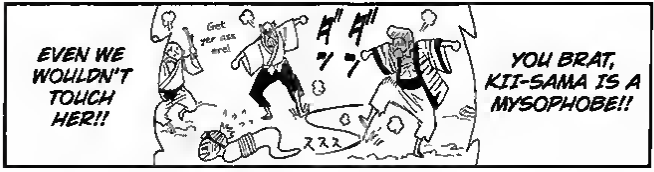
YOU ARE VERY WELCOME.
HMM,

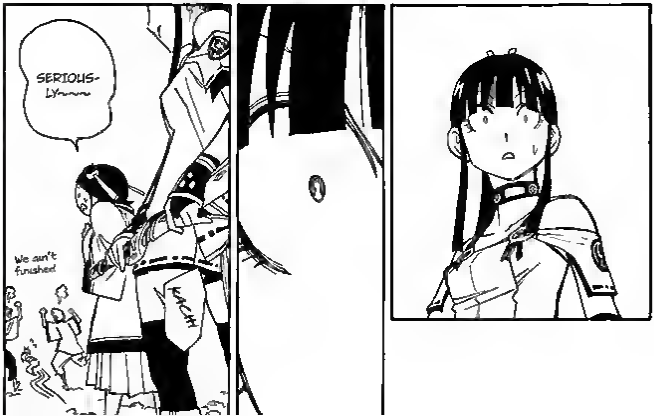

I ALSO FELT IT IN YOU,
IT MUST HAVE TRIGGERED MY REMINISCING MEMORY OF MY BROTHER...
PEOPLE IN THE PALACE CALLED IT "HALO"..
ALTHOUGH THE VILLAGERS BELIEVE THAT IT'S MAGIC,

T/N: THE WORDS ARE "ONE, TWO, THREE, FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, NINE, TEN" THIS IS A SHINTO CHANT CALLED FURU NO KOTO (WORD SHAKING) IF DONE CORRECTLY, THE SPELL CAN RESURRECT THE DEAD WHEN USED TOGETHER WITH THE TEN HEAVENLY TREASURES

THIS ISN'T A PLACE FOR YOU TO RAMBLE ABOUT...
.....
PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
PAT PAT
SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME
GIRLS [redacted] AL-WAYS BEEN ABHORRED AND SEEN AS A CURSED EXISTENCE IN THE HOUSE OF MATSU
IT IS SAID THAT GIRLS BRING GREAT MIS-FORTUNE.
AND SO THEY ARE BANISHED ONCE THEY COME OF AGE.
HOW-EVER,
TOYO!
OVER HERE, TOYO!


EWWW GO AWAY, YOU'RE DIS-GUSTING!!
IF YOU PREFER, WE CAN TIGHTEN THE KNOT!!
PLEASE UNTIE MIIIIIII TOO!!
EEP.


EVEN WE WOULDN'T TOUCH HER!!
Get your ass over!
YOU BRAT, KII-SAMA IS A MYSOPHOBE!!


SERIOUS-Lyyyy
We ain't finished
KACHI

WHAT-EVER HAPPENS, WE'RE SCREWED IF KII DIES.
IS SHE EVEN A VIRGIN?
YOU SURE THIS SHEILA CAN REPLACE HER? SHE'S GOT NO FAITH
CCO OCK AAA !!!!!
OI!! SHUT YER FUCKIN' BREAK!!
IS THIS GUY HER BOYFRIEND?
HMM...

Hey do you just attack anyone!?
...THE HELL IS SHE?
Mrgrgr
Are you okay?
Kaguya
Who might this be?
.....
!?
EEH?!

IT'S NOT A BLOODY WALK IN THE PARK AS AN OFFERING!
CLEANSE THYSELF TILL THE FULL MOON?
VILLAGER
KUSHIKO
SPLASH
DON'T THE MONKEYS URINATE UP-STREAM?
I RE-MEMBER, ISN'T THE MISHIRO RIVER FILTHY?
AH NO, HOW AWFUL...

WHO
ARE YOU...?
YOU SAY KII-SAMA'S RELATED TO THE EMPER-OR?
HUH?!
THE MATSU SANDAL GUY NAMED KIRU OR SOMETHING, WHAT'S HIS GOAL!?
I'M THE ONE ASKING QUESTIONS!!

LATER, WE WERE TOLD THAT IT WAS AN EXCUSE TO ESCAPE HER DUTY.
THE CENSOR REPORTED TO US BECAUSE SHE BEARS A STRANGE ORNAMENT AROUND HER NECK,
...WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE SHOULD LEAVE, BOCCHAMA.
TOYO IS STILL ALIVE!?
THE PRIN-CESS?
SHALL I SEND SOMEONE OVER?
TODAY IS THE 4TH DAY AFTER THE FULL MOON, SHE SHOULD BE ON THE ISLAND ALREADY
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...

LATELY THOUGH,
SHUT UP! THE GODS WILL MAKE YOU SUFFER.
I DON'T CARE!! WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH ME!?
もが"
もが"
もが"
SNAP
THE CAPITAL HAS BEEN TAKING A LASS ONCE A MONTH IN ORDER TO SECURE A VICTORY IN THE WAR
THE EMPEROR IS BLOODY TERRIFYING
YEAH . WE CAN'T STAND AGAINST HIM
THE CAPITAL...
THAT BASTARD'S...

LEAVE.

H... HEY?!
SIDE EFFECT?
...DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPEN..?
I-IF SHE'S REALLY THE SISTER,
DOES SHE KNOW THE TRUTH?
Ku-zame is a prin-cess..?
THE GODS ARE CRUEL...
AAH,
I LOVE THIS SMELL...
TIES SUCH AS THESE

ALL RIGHT... I'LL GO ANYWHERE IF IT'S FOR KIRU...
TOYO...
!!
PRINCE KIRU!!
IF YOU WISH AN AUDIENCE WITH THE EMPEROR, ALLOW ME TO REPRESENT YOU.
TROUBLE'S HEADING OUR WAY, I MUST REPORT THIS DIRECTLY.
BOCCHAMA MUST STAY IN BED..

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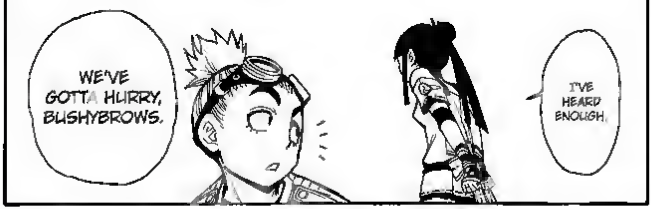
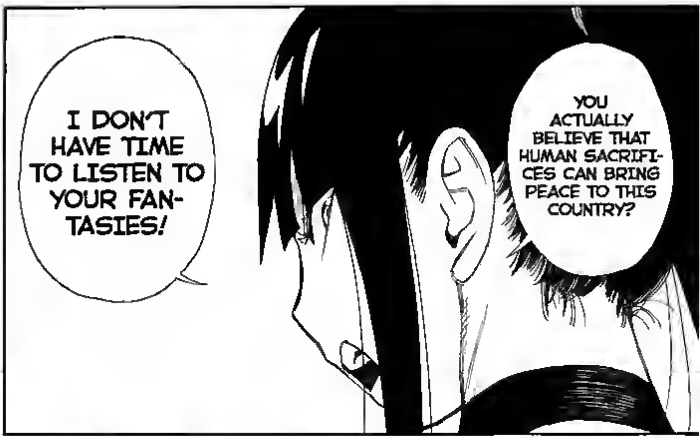
SCRIPT	KEMARI, MAISEY, BOCUI, IVI
EDITING	K-MAN, SATINEL, NORTHSTAR
QC	MINORI

TATSUYA ENDOU
GEKKA BIJIN

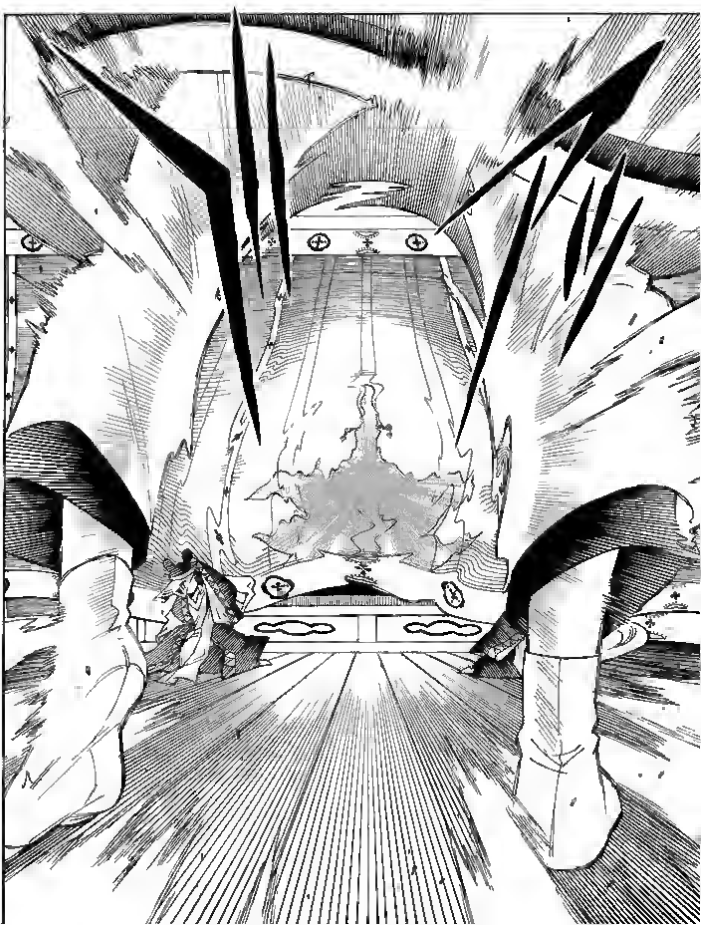
AH.
CAN YOU GET YOUR HANDS OFF OF ME ALREADY!?
I HAVE REMOVED THE POISON!
Well most of it.
SHE DROVE THE POISON...
OUT WITH HALO?!


WE'VE GOTTA HURRY, BUSHYBROWS.
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.

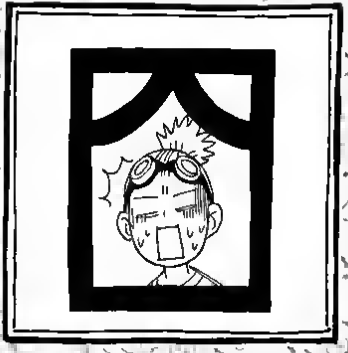

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO LISTEN TO YOUR FANTASIES!
YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT HUMAN SACRIFICES CAN BRING PEACE TO THIS COUNTRY?

OUT OF MY WAY.
MOTHER...
THE CAPITAL IS WATCHING US!!
W...WHAT DOES AN OUTSIDER KNOW!!
Y-I can't run.

THAT'S A POWER CALLED "HALO".
BUT ONLY THE ROYALTY CAN...
NO WAY... SHE IS A...
YOU'RE RELATED TO THE MATSU.
I DOUBT YOU'RE AN UME BASED ON THE EVENT HAPPENING CURRENTLY.
ぎり。



WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KII-SAMA?!
It's dangerous.
UNTIE
しゃがっ
AN OPEN-ING!!
A RIGHTEOUS PERSON TO RE-PLACE ME.
I CANNOT ALLOW
GET OFF ME!!
.....
.....



...DON'T LET HIM LEAVE, INCREASE THE GUARDS.
FATH-ER!!!
FATHER... THE EMPE-ROR!!
WHAT ARE YOU PLAN-NING!?
FATHER!!!
FUTSUNUSHI.
IF I RE-TRIEVE THAT BLADE!!
WHAT-EVER IT TAKES!!
I MUST QUESTION HIM!!

WHO...
BUT HOW...? I SWEAR I PUT IT HERE...
GO
GO
IT'S GONE!!
IF FATHER TOOK IT...
THIS IS BAD,
TO BE CONTINUED
GEKKA BIJIN VOLUME 3 END